

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-11 SAM-01 /088 W
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R 271213Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4306

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

/AMCONSUL CALCUTTA 6831

AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3001

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, CH

SUBJECT: SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS: RECENT HEARSAY

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHAVAN IS REPORTED TO HAVE TOLD A CLOSE INDIAN FRIEND (WHO PASSED THE INFORMATION TO OUR SWISS EMBASSY SOURCE) THAT THE SENIOR PRC OFFICIAL AT THE INDIAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION IN PEKING VICE FOREIGN MINISTER HAN NIEN-LUNG ASSURED THE INDIAN CHARGE THAT PEKING WOULD RECIPROCATE ANY PRO-PRC GESTURE THE GOI MIGHT MAKE. THE INDIAN CHARGE IS ALSO SAID TO HAVE INFORMED CHAVAN THAT HAN EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SINO-INDIAN RELATIONS WOULD IMPROVE. THE CHINESE WERE SAID TO HAVE SENT A DELEGATION OF SEVENTY-FIVE TO THE RECEPTION.

2. THE SWISS EMBASSY'S MEA CONTACT ALSO CLAIMED THE INDIAN MINISTRY WAS SIFTING THROUGH NAMES OF POSSIBLE AMBASADORS TO PEKING WHEN TENG'S FORTUNES SUDDENLY NOSE-DIVED. THE CHINESE THEN RESUMED THEIR PROPAGANDA ATTACKS ON INDIA (HONG KONG 2042) AND MATTERS HAVE RETURNED TO WHERE THEY WERE BEFORE THE JANUARY 26 RECEPTION AND THE PRC OFFICIAL'S ALLEGED COMMENTS. HOWEVER (CHAVAN IS REPORTED
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AS SAYING) THE GOI IS PLANNING TO RESPOND IN THE CHINESE REPEAT

THE OVERTURE AT A LATER DATE.

3. COMMENT--THE SWISS EMBOFF CLAIMED THAT HIS SOURCE'S REPORTING HAS BEEN ACCURATE IN THE PAST, BUT COMMENTED THAT WHILE HE ACCEPTS THE REPORT IN PARA ONE ON ITS FACE, HE IS NOT SURE ABOUT PARA TWO. THE REPORT IS OF COURSE HEARSAY ON HEARSAY, AND ALTHOUGH WE HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE EMBOFF'S JUDGEMENT WE HAVE NO WAY TO JUDGE HIS INDIAN CONTACT'S RELIABILITY. USLO PEKING MAY WISH TO QUERY AN INDIAN DIPLOMAT ON AN APPROPRIATE OCCASION. WE HAVE HEARD FROM MEA JOINT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIA FEBRUARY 19 THAT THE PRC EMBASSY HAS INFORMALLY EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION TO THE MEA FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S GESTURE IN SIGNING CHOU EN-LAI'S CONDOLENCE BOOK (NEW DELHI 0817 AND PREVIOUS). THE CHINESE CHARGE HERE HAS NOT, ACCORDING TO THE SAME MEA OFFICIAL, RESPONDED YET TO FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH'S QUESTION OF LAST AUGUST HOW THE TWO SIDES MIGHT BUILD ON THE FRIENDLY STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PRC VISITORS AT THE TIME OF THE CALCUTTA TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT A YEAR AGO (75 NEW DELHI 16716 AND 16768 NOTAL).
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